

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to the football team of Bowie High School for winning the Maryland State Football Championship. An estimated ten thousand fans were in attendance at Byrd Stadium on the Campus of the University of Maryland to witness Bowie High School's first ever division 4A football championship.

On December 1st, Bowie completed their season with a 23–6 victory over rival and previously unbeaten Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The game was the first All-Prince George's County title game since 1983, and the first time Bowie High School has played for the championship since 1987. The victory capped an outstanding season for Coach Scott Chadwick and his Bulldogs.

The championship culminated an incredible revival of the football program. When athletic director Bob Estes was hired two years ago, the football program had not had a winning record since 1988. The team had a 38–61 record from 1989 to 1997, including six years with less than four wins. Since Head Coach Chadwick took over the team four years ago, they have increased their win total each year, and now have a championship trophy.

Bowie High School's first championship is especially gratifying for the fans that have been vocally and passionately supporting the team throughout the year. Many parents of the team have been actively involved in the school's pep rallies and have stuck with the team throughout some tough years.

I applaud the efforts of the team members, their coaching staff, their fans, the school system and the Bowie Community for a winning season and for being the Maryland State Football Champions.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join with me in wishing the Bowie High School football team continued success and congratulations on their outstanding achievement.

### STUDENT VISAS

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the International Student Responsibility Act, which I am introducing today.

Each year, over 500,000 international students enter the United States to study at our colleges, universities, and trade schools. The vast majority of these students contributes to the intellectual achievements of our universities, promotes understanding across cul-

tures, and acquires an appreciation for the American values of freedom and democracy.

I am troubled, however, that the poor administration of the student visa program has become a threat to national security. At least one of the September 11th hijackers entered the country on a student visas, as did one of the 1993 World Trade Center bombers. Last year, a congressional commission on terrorism concluded that national security requires tighter monitoring of the status of foreign students.

On October 31, 2001, two subcommittees of the Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on the student visa program. We discovered some gaping loopholes.

For example, all the information in student visa applications is reported by the international student. There is no due diligence requirement from home countries to ensure that this information is accurate and that the student is trustworthy.

Second, the State Department does not notify the college when a visa is granted, nor does the Immigration and Naturalization Service promptly notify the college when the student enters the country. The last contact the college had with the student may have been granting admission. If the student enters the country but doesn't show up on campus, neither the college nor the INS may know anything went wrong for a year or longer.

Third, the INS is lagging behind schedule implementing the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires data collection on international students' enrollment status and current address. Without that database, the INS does not know when an international student graduates or drops out. Nor has the INS established a database to track foreign visitors' entry and exit from the country, so the INS does not know how many students stay in the country after completing their studies.

I would like to include for the record a recent editorial from the Contra Costa Times, which draws sound, sensible conclusions on this issue. As the editorial notes, "One of the easiest, albeit illegal, ways to get into the United States and stay here indefinitely is through student visas. . . . With America's heightened awareness of the need for secure borders and internal security, we no longer can afford to ignore student visa requirements."

Like many Americans, I value the attendance of international students at our colleges and universities, but we should make sure they follow the rules. The databases mandated by the 1996 law, but not yet implemented, are a good place to start. The International Student Responsibility Act gives the INS additional resources to implement them as quickly as possible. It also authorizes to funding to ensure that the databases are not a paper exercise, but are used aggressively as the basis for investigations and, if appropriate, deportations.

The Act also adds new procedures to address current law's shortcomings. It requires the INS to notify colleges with 10 days when

their students enter the country, and requires colleges to promptly notify the INS if any of their students fail to enroll. It creates an incentive for international students to comply with the law by withholding their transcripts and diplomas until they return home or extend their stay in the U.S. legally.

Finally, the best protection against potential terrorists is to prevent them from entering the U.S. at all. The Act requires the Department of State to ask international students' home countries whether the students are known criminals or terrorists before granting the visas. It also requires heightened scrutiny of students from countries that are state sponsors of terrorism.

We must strive to keep America as open as possible to foreign students, but also to ensure that we have closed the gaping loopholes in the student visa program that make our country more vulnerable to terrorism. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

[From the Contra Costa Times, Nov. 23, 2001]

### CONTROL STUDENT VISAS

One of the easiest ways, albeit illegal, to get into the United States and stay here is definitely through student visas. The visas are issued for full-time students for a specified time. Yet students often stay in the country well past the visas' expiration dates with impunity. This situation must not continue for students or anyone else who received a visa to come to the United States.

That does not mean this country has to close its doors to foreign students or other wishing to work in or visit the United States. It certainly does not mean the United States should place a six-month moratorium on all student visas, as Sen. Dianne Feinstein has proposed. It does mean the Immigration and Naturalization Service is going to have to do a far better job of controlling visas and keeping track of everyone with a visa who enters this country.

Those who are here past the expiration dates on their visas should be deported. However, it also should not be such an onerous burden for visa holders, particularly students, to get their visas properly renewed before they expire as long as the person continues full-time studies in this country and is law-abiding.

With America's heightened awareness of the need for secure borders and internal security, we no longer can afford to ignore student visa requirements. Nor can we grant visas to anyone without closer scrutiny of his or her background.

Of particular concern are students from countries with a record of harboring terrorists who are seeking visas. The list of such countries is short, but includes several nations in the Middle East, where much of the world's international terrorism is bred.

It is critical that those seeking visas from such nations receive extensive background checks before they enter the United States. Some may see this as racial profiling. It is actually nation profiling, and it is necessary for public security. Thorough background checks need not prevent the United States from accepting large numbers of foreign students, even from countries where terrorism is a problem.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

It simply means that the United States must enforce its visa laws to reduce the chance of terrorism and to get a better grip on controlling its borders.

To accomplish this goal in a humane manner, the INS is going to have to increase its work force so that those wishing to spend extended periods of time in the United States are carefully screened, are easily able to renew visas for legitimate purposes and are deported when they violate the terms of their visas.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. MELINDA DAY

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Melinda Day of Lenoir City, Tennessee, in my District. She was recently chosen as Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002. Ms. Day teaches fifth grade at Lenoir City Elementary School.

This honor is well deserved for Ms. Day, who has been teaching for six years. Even when she was a child, Ms. Day would practice being a teacher in the basement of her parents' home.

Her students enjoy learning in her classroom. She teaches with enthusiasm and a real love for educating children.

Ms. Day has traveled to Japan on two occasions to teach as a part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program and the Fulbright Master Fund Teacher Program.

This Nation would be a much better place and our students would be better educated if there were more people and teachers like Melinda Day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Day on a job well done. She serves as an inspiration for educators all over the Country. I have included an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that highlights the accomplishments of Ms. Day that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville (TN) News-Sentinel,  
Nov. 19, 2001]

#### TENNESSEE'S TOP TEACHER

MELINDA K. DAY IS NOW VYING FOR NATIONAL HONOR

(By Jennifer Lawson)

Lenoir City Elementary School fifth-grader Alexis Lawson thinks she knows why her teacher, Miss Day, was chosen the Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002.

"She's a good teacher because she listens to people," Alexis said as she led a visitor to Melinda K. Day's classroom.

Day was recently chosen to represent Tennessee in the competition for National Teacher of the Year, which will culminate next April in a ceremony at the White House.

At 28, Day's been teaching for six years officially, but she actually started teaching at age 6 when she set up a classroom complete with a row of antique desks in her parents' basement or in the back of the family horse trailer.

"Every day after school I would rush home to 'teach' what I learned that day and model my teacher's actions in my play classroom," Day wrote in her state competition essay. "This love of learning and teaching has always been an integral part of me. My mom

and dad instilled the value of education in me at a very early age."

It only takes a few minutes spent in Day's classroom to feel the enthusiasm and energy she spreads to her students. Her classroom is decorated with fish and palm trees, and a tank of goldfish sits on one counter. She loves things tropical and through her fiancé, Chris Webster, she's become a fan of Jimmy Buffett and his ocean-inspired music.

"Your life is so precious you can't be replaced by anyone," is written across the top of the blackboard.

Her age belies her experience, which includes summers teaching in Japan and Wales as well as bachelor's, master's and education specialist's degrees from the University of Tennessee. She also traveled to Japan to teach as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in 1998 and again last year as a recipient of the Fulbright Master Teacher Program.

She said spending time in Japan and not speaking the language made her understand the frustration Spanish speaking children feel when they come to Lenoir City Elementary. Over the past few years, the school has taught a growing population of Mexican immigrants.

"She has served as an inspiration to more experienced teachers and helped to change the attitudes of some teachers with less enthusiasm," wrote Lenoir City Schools Superintendent Wayne Miller in a letter supporting Day's nomination. "Another point which makes Ms. Day an exemplary teacher."

The Alabama native, who grew up in Lenoir City, Iowa and South Carolina, said she's like her father who "has to have change constantly." She channels that need for change into her teaching.

"Teaching to her is 24-7," said Lenoir Elementary Principal Patricia Jones. "She's got a unique quality about her that creates an environment for the children where they feel safe to learn."

Day credits three elementary teachers for cultivating her natural love of teaching: Melanie Amburn and Donna Langley (now Zukowski) of Eaton Elementary School in Loudon County and Julia Pratt, who teaches in Marion, Iowa. More than the subject matter she learned, she remembers how the teachers made her feel about learning and her potential.

"Not only did these teachers set high expectations for students (to) learn the basic skills, but (they) also wanted each child to gain confidence and develop a sense of humor to enjoy life," she wrote in her essay. "The small acts of kindness exhibited by these teachers still make me realize the importance of personally knowing all of my students and learning what encouragements they need to make them feel better about themselves each day."

Her toughest decision after winning the \$3,500 prize accompanied by a crystal award and a certificate signed by Gov. Don Sundquist, was deciding whom to take to Washington with her—her mother, her father or her fiancé.

"I'm taking my mom with me," Day said. "She's a big Republican. When I told her, she jumped up and down like a little girl."

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S MARINE SAFETY OFFICE OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11th demanded a great deal from all those involved in ensuring the safety and security of our Nation. Countless individuals and organizations were called upon to aid our country in this time of need, and many answered this call with a great amount of effort and dedication to the American cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the United States Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office of Huntington, West Virginia, the recent recipients of the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001. This honor rewards the leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management and business results produced by individual U.S. Coast Guard offices. In addition, the Huntington office was specifically recognized for their development of efficient business practices after the tragedy our Nation suffered on September 11th. Despite the fact that this office is one of the smallest of the 45 marine safety offices nationwide, their newly developed risk assessment plan was praised in Washington for their invaluable contributions to the Coast Guard as a whole in this area.

I would also like to recognize the achievements of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, WV. As the communications director for his local office, he was singled out for improving that particular office's pager, cell phone and voice mail systems, all of which have proven to be crucial for operations in the post-September 11th era.

The article in the Herald Dispatch is included on this hero.

#### COAST GUARD OFFICE HONORED FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES (By Bob Withers)

HUNTINGTON.—The local U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office was honored Tuesday for developing efficient business practices that influenced the entire Coast Guard after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Master Chief Petty Officer Vincent W. Patton III of Washington, D.C., the Coast Guard's highest-ranking enlisted member, presented the unit with the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001 during a ceremony at the local headquarters.

The annual honor—patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier award for performance in business and industry—recognizes commands and major staff elements that, through commitment to customer and employee satisfaction and continuous improvement, serve as examples for other Coast Guard organizations.

The award encompasses several categories of management—leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resources, process management and business results.

Patton said officers in Washington were particularly impressed with the local office's newly developed risk assessment plan.

"We needed that information after 9-11," he told the members "When emergency situations arise, we need a frame of reference to

measure our use of personnel, money and assets. You have no idea what your plan is doing for us back in Washington.”

Patton compared the accomplishments of the local unit—one of the smallest of 45 marine safety offices nationwide—to the heroics of the outmanned and outgunned crew of the “tiny, dinky” revenue cutter *Eagle*, which was driven ashore in Long Island Sound in October 1814 in an encounter with the British brig *Dispatch*. The crew dragged their few weapons up a bluff and continued the battle, using log books for cartridges and returning the enemy’s small shells that had lodged in the *Eagle*’s hull.

Cmdr. Lincoln Stroh, commanding officer of the local office, also honored U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, the local office’s communications officer, for improving its pager, cell phone and voice mail systems.

Stroh also praised Perry for working extra hours to help the office meet increased port safety and security responsibilities following the terrorist attacks.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAYLE POTTER’S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS AT DURAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of eighth grade students from Durand Middle School in Durand, Michigan. These students along with their teacher, Gayle Potter, have taken the initiative to send to my office their own ideas for helping rebuild vital areas of our economy after the tragic events of September 11th.

The events of September 11th were meant to create fear in every American, especially our children. Yet, the terrorists who carried out those evil acts have succeeded in only strengthening our resolve as Americans. It is also clear, through these students’ great example, that our nation’s greatest resource, our youth, is as strong, brave, and as bright as they have ever been.

Mr. Speaker, this group of students truly exemplifies the spirit of all Americans at this time in our history. They have set a wonderful example that every American can follow. I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting their devotion to our country and its continued prosperity.

#### WISHING WELL TO MR. NORMAN BRINKER

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a great Dallas-Fort Worth resident. Mr. Norman Brinker is a trailblazer and trendsetter. He has been a pioneer in business and a great friend to our community.

There is perhaps no more amazing restaurateur than Mr. Brinker. He revolutionized the combination of good food, reasonable cost and great customer service through his Steak and Ale restaurant chain. He built the chain to

100 units before The Pillsbury Company, of which Mr. Brinker later became Chairman, bought it.

As Chairman of The Pillsbury Company, he oversaw the world’s second largest restaurant organization, presiding over sales of \$4 billion. Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr. Brinker soon ventured out on his own again, buying Dallas based chain Chili’s. Under his leadership, the 23 operating units of Chili’s became Brinker International, a world restaurant power with hundreds of operating units and over \$2 billion in sales. Brinker International now owns Chili’s, On the Border, Macaroni Grill, Cozymel’s, Corner Bakery, Big Bowl and Eatzi’s restaurant chains.

Brinker International is an extraordinarily important corporate citizen of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but just as important is Mr. Brinker’s leadership in the industry and society. The leaders of Outback Steakhouse, Houston’s, Red Lobster and Boston Market all spent time under Mr. Brinker’s tutelage. In addition, he has been a trendsetter in philanthropy, encouraging entrepreneurs to pair their financial donations with donations of time, and helping to start the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with his wife Nancy.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Brinker has relinquished his position as Chairman of Brinker International and is engaged in a new challenge—defeating his own cancer ailment. As he approaches this new challenge with the same zeal as the other challenges in his life, Dallas-Fort Worth looks forward to his leadership for years to come. I ask that the Congress and the country join the citizens of Dallas-Fort Worth in wishing him well.

#### ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, weeks ago the House acted on President Bush’s request for an economic stimulus package. We knew then what has now been confirmed—America is in a recession. And, here in New Jersey, the economic slowdown has been especially acute as many New Jersey residents lost their jobs, many as a result of the tragic events of September 11, and others because our economic slowdown began well before September. First and foremost, we need to help the victims and families of the terrorist attacks and the many workers who have lost their jobs. And, with the \$40 billion in emergency assistance already approved by Congress, President Bush and his Administration are doing just that. Under the emergency federal assistance provided to our state, workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the attacks are eligible for unemployment and health insurance for up to 26 weeks—that’s through at least March of next year. And these benefits have been extended to the self-employed and others who are not otherwise eligible for this assistance.

After addressing these immediate, emergency needs, the House acted quickly to take steps to get our economy moving again. Those steps focused on helping to restore consumer confidence and encouraging private sector investment and expansion to help re-

place lost jobs and to add more, new jobs. The House has acted on just such a plan. My colleagues in the other body must act now on an economic security bill to help our economy, and those who have lost their jobs.

While most Americans heard recent news reports that said our nation is now “officially” in a recession, it didn’t take a headline in the newspaper or “Breaking News” on CNN for far too many New Jerseyans to realize that these are hard times in America. Even before September 11 changed our lives forever, layoffs at some of New Jersey’s largest, most established companies, like Lucent, AT&T and Honeywell, for example, were taking their toll. Alarming, 27,000 jobs were lost in the first nine months of this year in New Jersey. Our state’s unemployment rate rose to 4.8 percent in October, up from 4.5 percent in September.

It’s time for the other body to act and I call on the other body to reject their plans to expand federal programs and increase federal spending beyond our budget agreement with the Administration. More government spending, to my mind, will not serve to stimulate our economy.

Let’s face it—the only answer for job loss is to create new jobs. And with the exception of the newly federalized baggage screeners, the Federal Government does not create jobs or economic activity. In fact, the more we “grow” government, the more dollars we take out of the private sector, away from the taxpayer and out of our economy. That is why the House version of the economic stimulus provides rapid tax relief to businesses, large and small, to continue to invest, to purchase equipment, expand production and promote job hiring. While some have criticized the House bill as corporate welfare, we need companies to stop layoffs and hire again! Our proposal is critical to the success of New Jersey business. According to the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, even before the September 11 terror attacks, New Jersey employers as a group had lost their confidence in our economy. Two-thirds of 1,600 employers participating in the Association’s 2002 Business Outlook Survey said their industries were already in a recession or heading into one at the time of the attacks. We’ve got to turn that thinking around and provide the incentives to New Jersey’s companies to start growing their businesses again.

The House bill also returns more tax dollars back to working Americans by accelerating the tax rate cuts we passed earlier this year and by including tax rebate checks for those individuals who didn’t receive them in the first round. Returning these dollars will give people more dollars to spend and invest. These actions—as opposed to more government spending and more government programs—will better address the underlying weaknesses in our economy, namely consumer confidence, consumer spending, and the need for renewed and sustained business investment and expansion.

And, early next year, when existing unemployment and health benefits may be depleted, I am confident that we will continue to help those who need it most. In fact the House economic security package includes a provision that provides another \$9 billion in surplus Federal unemployment funds to the states. This translates into approximately \$368 million that will be immediately available for

New Jersey to pay for more or to expand regular unemployment benefits. This is real Federal assistance to lend a helping hand to New Jerseyans who are hurting the most.

Prompt Senate action will help get our fellow Americans back in the workforce, not still standing in the unemployment line next Spring. While not every provision of the House bill is perfect, our economic security package is a better starting point than the legislative paralysis in the other body! To the other body, I say, get your job done, and let's get America back to work.

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CONGRATULATING MITCH LOUIS  
MANSOUR ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE GROCERY BUSINESS

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**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Louis "Mitch" Mansour, of Huntington, WV, who, after half a century in the grocery business, retired on November 4, 2001.

For thirty-eight years Mitch owned and operated "Mansour's Market," a family neighborhood grocery market that survived the intense competition brought about by "superstores" and continues to thrive today.

Mitch Mansour's entrepreneurial career began almost from birth. The son of Lebanese immigrants, Mitch was born in 1930 next door to his father's modest grocery store. Even before adolescence Mitch worked alongside his father, Elia, cultivating customer relationships and a solid work ethic. Mitch eventually took over this small store in 1954 after returning home from service during the Korean War.

In 1963, Mitch and his bride, Melanie, began "Mansour's Food Market," which has served as a source of quality foods and employment for hundreds of residents from the local community. From loyal employees that have built careers in catering, meat cutting, grocery management, and customer relations to summer and part-time employees who have pursued professions in law and medicine, "Mansour's" has been a solid and reassuring pillar in the Huntington community.

An innovator in customer service, Mitch would not just point the customer to the desired aisle, but walk them to the display and personally present the product choices. In the 1960's, "Mansour's" began their grocery home delivery service, which continues to be a valuable service today, especially for elderly and disabled residents. If a customer cannot make it to "Mansour's," "Mansour's" comes to them.

In today's transient world it's rare to find someone who spends their life so closely entwined in their community. Michael Mansour and "Mansour's Market" has been an important part of the Huntington community and will continue to be for a long time.

I ask that my colleagues join me in offering sincere congratulations to Mitch on the event of his retirement and best wishes for the future.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S WITHDRAWAL  
FROM THE ABM TREATY

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush's decision to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) deserves the applause of every American. For too many years our country has been left undefended from the threat of a ballistic missile attack because of the ABM Treaty. Even Soviet Premier Kosygin supported a ballistic missile defense when he remarked, "Defense is moral, aggression is immoral."

We need to defend our country from ballistic missile attack. Withdrawing from the ABM Treaty with its special prohibition against space-based defenses is a major step toward that goal. The terrorist attacks of September 11 should have taught us that we should not let our guard down.

We need to act decisively to build a ballistic missile defense, especially a space-based defense, taking advantage of the benefits of an orbital defense with its global coverage, multiple opportunities for intercepting a ballistic missile, and boost phase interception capability.

Our lack of a space-based ballistic missile defense reflects a lack of political will to build such a defense. The ABM Treaty limited the United States to an inferior defense using ground-based interceptors. The technology for building a space-based ballistic missile defense has been available for years, even decades, but not the funding.

We need to fully fund our ballistic missile defense programs, particularly for space. This will require an increase in spending. This increase is justified. Our lack of ballistic missile defense is not justified. Freedom has a price. The ballistic missile threat is increasing, whether seen in North Korea's missile program, or China's buildup of its road-mobile DF-31 ICBM and other missiles.

Increased funding, for example, is justified for the Space Based Laser. Instead of being funded annually at between \$50 and \$150 million, the Space Based Laser should be funded an order of magnitude greater at \$500-\$1500 million. This will enable the Space Based Laser to be tested and deployed well before 2010, instead of after 2010 as currently scheduled.

Lack of funding, not technology, keeps us from building Space Based Lasers. In 1995, three major aerospace contractors wrote the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator STROM THURMOND, pointing out how funding of about \$1.5 billion over four years could result in a test launch of a Space Based Laser. The Space Based Laser, moreover, with its boost phase interception capability and global coverage, will provide a more effective defense compared to the Mid Course Phase ground-based interceptor currently under development.

We need a robust ballistic missile defense encompassing a variety of technologies and layers. A defense made up of several layers will more easily defend against counter-

measures such as China's plan to attack U.S. radar and communication nodes, or Russia's use of ballistic missiles as platforms for launching hypersonic scramjets that travel in the upper atmosphere.

Funding is needed to re-start the Brilliant Pebbles space-based interceptor program that was successfully ground-tested under the elder Bush's administration. Additional spending for research and development into high-energy laser technologies is called for. Nor should high-energy particle beams be neglected, which showed promise as in the 1989 BEAR experiment. Particle beams as well as lasers can provide effective mid-course phase discrimination of decoys from warheads.

With defense spending at one of its lowest levels since before Pearl Harbor, the political will is now needed to ask for an increase in funding for a space-based ballistic missile defense. Do we need to wait for another September 11 using ballistic missiles before we defend our country?

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TRIBUTE TO THE ART STUDENTS  
AT CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11th of this year had a great impact on our Country. While the devastating terrorist attacks have caused us great sorrow for the loss of lives, Americans have pulled together like never before.

Those who carried out the attacks thought that they would destroy the American Spirit, but I can tell they did exactly the opposite.

People have come together to show their support for those lost in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. Recently, art students at Cleveland High School showed their support by creating a mural that depicts the events of September 11th and our resolve to never let this happen again.

This piece of work has been talked and written about in local newspapers and television.

Cleveland High School Art Teacher, Martha Kidwell, created a collage of images from magazines and newspapers which were used as a base for this mural.

The mural measures 13 by 6 feet. This piece of art shows the attacks on America, but it also portrays the heroic firefighters, a determined President Bush, the Statue of Liberty, the American Flag and the Bald Eagle.

This work of art was created by 22 high school students who have shown their patriotism and care for their fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Martha Kidwell and her students should be commended for their hard work and determination to show their fellow citizens that we will overcome terrorism.

This mural will serve as an inspiration to anyone who sees it. It is currently on display in Southeast Tennessee, and I encourage anyone traveling through this part of the Country to stop by and see this mural entitled, "We Will Never Forget".

GLOBAL ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2069 the Global Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Awareness, Education, and Treatment Act of 2001. The HIV/AIDS pandemic threatens the stability of the modern world, as we know it in both developed and developing countries.

I would first like to thank Chairman HYDE for introducing this important legislation. I also would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for her tireless work in the area of AIDS and her efforts to raise the consciousness of her colleagues to combat this horrendous disease.

The devastation of the HIV/AIDS disease does not discriminate, and impacts the lives of us all. Recent reports from the United Nations state that more than 58 million people globally have been infected with HIV/AIDS. This horrendous disease has negatively impacted the economies of Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

This legislation takes a comprehensive approach to combating HIV/AIDS by providing funding for the prevention, education, testing, treatment, and care of individuals with HIV/AIDS. I support and applaud the substantial increase in funding that H.R. 2069 provides to fight HIV/AIDS around the world. I am happy to see that this bill authorizes \$485 million in bilateral funding, \$50 million for treatment, and \$750 million for multilateral funding for fiscal year 2002. I hope that this contribution by the United States is the first of many, and that it will serve as a down payment on the improvement of our global future.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has erased decades of progress in improving the lives of families in the developing world and has claimed 22,000,000 lives since its inception.

More than 17,000,000 individuals have died from HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

Two-thirds of those diagnosed with the AIDS virus in the Caribbean are dead within two years. AIDS is the leading cause of death in the Caribbean for those fifteen to forty-five years of age and these numbers continue to increase.

We as a nation must once again exhibit the strong leadership that is our heritage and do the right thing by addressing this humanitarian and economic crisis head on. H.R. 2069 does just that by exhibiting our commitment in the U.S. Congress to combating this dreaded disease through the authorization of this much needed and necessary funding.—

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF  
2001

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, the House passed H.R. 1, the

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Conference Report by an overwhelming, bi-partisan majority vote. By doing so, we have deliver (on President Bush's promise and commitment to improve the education of every child in America!

It is our President's number one, domestic priority, other than Homeland Security.

In his Inaugural Address, President Bush in speaking about our responsibilities and values as citizens said "Together, we will reclaim America's schools, before ignorance and apathy claim more young lives."

President Bush called upon Congress to achieve that goal by coming up with a plan to reform education in new and bold ways.

Earlier this year, the House responded first by passing the most comprehensive education reform package in almost three decades.

This bill, the No Child Left Behind Act calls for a major increase in federal funds for both states and local school districts. The final agreement with the House and Senate does just that.

It sets aside close to \$135 billion for education over the next 5 years alone.

But more importantly, these dollars will ensure accountability by providing the following: unprecedented new flexibility for states and school districts in the use of federal education funds, ensures higher levels of achievement for students to meet and surpass, sets new accountability standards to keep only the most qualified teachers in our classroom and provides more choices for parents in determining the best education possible for their children.

These are important reforms that will replace three and a half decades of increased education spending that have simply not produced the results Americans deserve.

As President Bush rightly put it, "dollars alone do not always make a difference."

Today's victory ensures that no child will be left behind. In fact, following the enactment of our reform bill, immediate new options will be available to students in thousands of failing public schools across the United States.

A Department of Education analysis finds that students at nearly 3,000 underachieving public schools nationwide will be eligible for immediate, new options to achieve a better education in a more suitable learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues in the other body to pass H.R. 1 so that we can get it to President's desk and signed into law before the end of the year.

For years, we have been providing critical funds for the education of our children. Now we are taking an extra step to ensure those dollars produce results.

HONORING NASA ADMINISTRATOR  
DANIEL GOLDIN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to recognize NASA's longest-serving Administrator, Mr. Daniel Saul Goldin, who during his nearly decade-long tenure, starting in 1992, demonstrated a commitment to the educational excellence of minori-

ties in the areas of science, mathematics, engineering and research.

He has demonstrated his commitment to educational excellence for all Americans through NASA's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs', Minority University Research and Education Division. His efforts helped the Agency to focus on establishing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS) and Other Minority Universities (OMUS) as model institutions of teaching, learning, research and service, effectively educating diverse populations for NASA and the nation.

During his tenure, NASA's Minority University Research and Education Division's budget realized a 200% increase from about \$40 million in FY 1992 to \$82 million dollars in FY 2001.

Under his exceptional leadership, NASA's HBCU and Hispanic Education Programs received Presidential citations as models for the federal sector, and the pre-college Science Engineering Mathematics Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) Program, begun in 1993 under the auspices of former Congressman Louis Stokes, has been replicated to more than 17 sites nationwide.

Mr. Goldin also established several programs that were aimed at increasing the number of minority students in the areas of science, engineering, mathematics, and research. Those programs include: the Model of Institutions for Excellence (MIE), which upgrades the quality of science, engineering and mathematics education; the Network Resources and Training Site (NRTS), which provides state-of-the-art computer and information technology to minority institutions; and Project ACCESS (Achieving Competence in Computers, Engineering, Space Science), which provides a NASA-wide intern program for college students with targeted disabilities.

Administrator Goldin encouraged enhanced NASA-related research by faculty at minority institutions through the Faculty Awards Research Program. He also provided sustained funding to 14-multidisciplinary University Research Centers (URCS) at minority institutions, and he facilitated the integration of HBCUs and OMUs into conventional mainstream research programs at NASA.

As led by Administrator Goldin, NASA and the Congressional Black Caucus partnered successfully to expand educational opportunities for minorities in science, mathematics and engineering to increase the presence of minorities in research and technology-related fields.

In addition to initiating the "faster, better, cheaper" approach that enabled NASA to deliver programs of high value to the American public without sacrificing safety, his aggressive management reforms helped to produce a 40 billion dollar reduction from prior budget plans.

He reduced NASA's workforce by about a third while reducing the Headquarters' workforce by more than half, without resorting to forced layoffs—all of this with a 40% gain in productivity.

Mr. Goldin implemented a more balanced aeronautics and space program by reducing human space flight from 48% of the Agency's total budget to 38%.

He also played a pivotal role in redesigning the International Space Station and in 1995, he personally visited more than 200 members on Capitol Hill to win support for Space Station.

Defense Business named Mr. Goldin as one of the world's most influential defense-industry leaders saying "he has tightened the workforce, introduced a stunning array of new missions, including information-gathering journeys to the Moon and Mars, and became the major player in the embryonic International Space Station."

He has also been named as one of the 100 most influential men and women in Government by the National Journal, which observed that "most space watchers say that Dan Goldin is a brilliant visionary who brought NASA back from the brink of a black hole."

Once again, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, recognize the enduring contributions of Administrator Daniel S. Goldin and appreciate his dedication to the improvement of science, engineering, and mathematics education and research, among minority students in the United States.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. RUTH

### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor James D. Ruth who is retiring after 22 years of exemplary service to the City of Anaheim and 45 years in public service.

Mr. Ruth's impressive resume includes numerous noteworthy accomplishments. Under his tenure as city manager, Anaheim became internationally recognized as a hub for entertainment and for its world class convention center. His crowning achievement was the role he played in negotiations for the construction of the 19,500-seat Arrowhead Pond arena, which has affectionately been called "the house that Ruth built," and his work with the Walt Disney Company to bring the Mighty Ducks of the National Hockey League to the Pond.

Mr. Ruth was very instrumental in the \$118 million renovation of Edison Field, and thereby the retention of the Anaheim Angels and Major League Baseball in Orange County. He negotiated with the Walt Disney Company to develop in Anaheim their new theme park, California Adventure, at cost of \$1.4 billion. In conjunction with the park expansion, the city initiated and began the implementation of a \$510 million improvement program to the Anaheim Resort Area and a \$1.9 billion renovation of the Santa Ana (I-5) Freeway. Revitalization projects provided low income housing in the Jeffrey-Lynne neighborhood west of Disneyland, a \$58.2 million Community Center, and a much needed Senior Center.

Mr. Ruth's vision, outstanding business and governmental acumen, strong leadership skills and dedication to public service have earned the admiration and respect of those who have had the privilege of working with him. I would like to congratulate him on these outstanding accomplishments and sincerely thank him for his exemplary record of service to the City of Anaheim.

#### DEFENDING AMERICA FROM BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACKS

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, we need to defend our country from ballistic missile attack. President Bush has taken a major step toward that goal by withdrawing from the 1972 ABM Treaty. President Bush has our sincere thanks and congratulations for removing the United States from a treaty that inhibited our defense and was repeatedly violated by Russia.

We need to act decisively to build a ballistic missile defense. The fact that our country is undefended from ballistic missiles is a reflection of our lack of political will to build a defense. The technology for a ballistic missile defense is available, and has been for years and even decades, as noted by the Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization under President George H.W. Bush's administration.

I strongly urge the President to fully fund a robust ballistic missile defense program encompassing a variety of technologies and defenses. A robust defense made up of several layers will more easily guard against countermeasures such as those planned by China to attack U.S. radar and communication nodes, or by Russia to use ballistic missiles for launching hypersonic scramjets.

Full funding for a robust ballistic missile defense will call for increases in spending. This spending is justified. Our lack of ballistic missile defense is not justified. Freedom has a price, including a strong defense, and the ballistic missile threat is increasing, whether measured by North Korea's ballistic missile program, or China's buildup involving its road-mobile DF-31 ICBM.

Funding, for example, needs to be increased for the Space Based Laser program. Instead of being funded annually at between \$50-150 million, the Space Based Laser should be funded an order of magnitude greater at \$500-1500 million. This increase in funding will enable the Space Based Laser to be tested and deployment begin sooner than after 2010 as currently scheduled.

Lack of funding, not technology, keeps us from building a constellation of Space Based Lasers. In 1995, three major aerospace contractors wrote to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, STROM THURMOND, on the Space Based Laser, pointing out how additional funding of approximately \$1.5 billion over four years could result in a test launch of a Space Based Laser.

While this estimate for testing the Space Based Laser in space was prepared nearly seven years ago, it clearly illustrates how the level of funding for the Space Based Laser should be on a billion-dollar level rather than \$50-150 million. (The Space Based Laser, with its boost phase interception capability and global coverage, will provide a more effective defense compared to the Mid Course Phase ground-based interceptor currently under development.)

Additional money for research and development into other high-energy laser technologies is called for. In October 2001 key defense scientists recommended a substantial cash infu-

sion into laser technology. Over and above funding for the Space Based Laser, additional funding is needed for research into high-energy lasers. These lasers could include chemical gas lasers such as the DF laser (the Space Based Laser uses an HF chemical reaction), excimer and free electron lasers, or even solid-state lasers. Nor should high-energy particle beams be neglected, which showed promise in the 1989 BEAR experiment. (Particle beams as well as lasers can provide effective mid-course phase discrimination of decoys from warheads.) This research into lasers and particle beams would be invaluable, and result in commercial applications. Funding, similar to the Strategic Defense Initiative, should be on a billion-dollar level.

In addition, funding is needed to re-start the Brilliant Pebbles space-based interceptor program that was successfully ground-tested under President George H.W. Bush's administration, and successfully flight-tested in the Clementine lunar mission. Annual funding for this program should be expected at around \$500-1500 million to deploy a constellation of at least a thousand interceptors. Brilliant Pebbles can provide a boost phase interception capability, as well as mid-course phase interception. This space-based defense is not far off into the future, but was approved to enter its acquisition phase under the Bush Senior administration in 1992. To supplement the mid-course interception capability of Brilliant Pebbles, funding for the SBIRS-low constellation of missile launch detection and tracking satellites should be accelerated.

The funding increases needed for ballistic missile defense are in line with any other major arms acquisition program. But the political will is now needed to ask for this funding. It is worth noting that current U.S. defense spending is at one of its lowest levels since before Pearl Harbor.

I urgently request that President Bush prepare a ballistic missile defense budget that will enable the United States to exploit its technology in high-energy lasers and hit-to-kill interceptors. Much of this technology should be deployed in orbit where it can provide global coverage, multiple opportunities for interception, and a boost phase interception capability.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE DOMINICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Representatives of the community with a common heritage from the Dominican Republic gathered December 7-9, 2001 for the fourth annual conference of the Dominican American National Roundtable. Each year, this group comes together to reflect on the past year, discuss areas of need within the community, and plan for the upcoming year. This year's conference was especially meaningful in light of the recent tragedies affecting the Dominican American community and I extend my most sincere congratulations to the DANR and its president Adriano Espallat for hosting such a successful weekend here in Washington DC.

Already struggling to overcome the devastating effects of September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the crash of American Airlines Flight #587 has impacted our Nation's Dominican community deeply. Almost all 260 persons aboard the flight were of Dominican ancestry and, as was pointedly demonstrated during the conference, it seems as if every person of Dominican heritage in the United States has been personally touched by this tragedy. During the opening session Moises Perez, Executive Director of Alianza Dominicana a social service community based non-profit agency located in northern Manhattan illustrated this with this with a story of personal quest to find one person who did not know someone aboard the plane. He has yet to find one person.

Our ability to gather and reflect on these recent occurrences was essential in providing a discourse for this community to begin to make sense of these horrific events. It also provided a forum to discuss the next forward step. As the Dominican community continues to mourn the loss of so many loved ones, we must support its efforts to continue its work to address the items that impact the community.

This year's conference celebrated the opening of the DANR's Washington DC office. The DANR seeks to bring the voices of all people of Dominican origin who lived in the United States together and provide a forum for analysis, planning, and action to advance the primary interests of the community. The office will serve as the coordinating center for the Dominican American's agenda, ensuring that their voice is heard at the national level and their interests are being addressed in the legislative arena. Representing the largest Dominican community in the United States, I am strongly supportive of the opening of this office and I pledge my support to this community as it continues to grow in strength and size in the United States.

This year's theme, "Empowerment through Education" demonstrates the importance of education to the future of this community. Like many Americans, education is high on the list of critical priorities for the Dominican American community. However, the Dominican American population is plagued by sky rocketing drop out rates, poorly funded and dilapidated schools, educators ill-prepared to face the challenges of migratory communities and bilingual education, and a lack from or familiar with the community.

I commend the DANR's commitment to its youth. In addition to the participation of so many key leaders within the community, the presence of a large number of young people was particularly heart-warming and telling of the potential success this community will find if it is given the opportunity to participate in the framing and addressing of the issues and challenges which face it. From high school to graduate school, these students represented the future leaders of the Dominican American community and their dedication to their roots in the Dominican Republic and United States is evident. Too often our children are forced to shed and hide the heritage that defines them. Our culture is not a curse; it is a blessing, and we must never let our youth forget that where we come from is essential in determining who we will become.

I would like to thank all those whose hard work made the weekend possible, especially the DANR President Adriano Espallat. I would

also like to extend my appreciation to the DANR Board of Directors including Alejandra Castillo, Raysa Castillo, Miguel De Jesus, Ana Garcia, Epifanio Gil, Josefina Infante, Rafael Latingua, Mania Luna, Manuel Matos, Rafael Morel, Barbara Perez, Moises Perez, Felipe Rodriguez, Ydanis Rodrigues, Elvis Ruiz, Luis Salcedo and Slivio Torres-Saillant and the DANR staff consisting of Jose Bello, Rademes Peguero, Victor F. Capellan, Ninoska Uribe, Roberto Alvarez, and Margarita Cepeda.

I look forward to continuing our work to supporting and advancing the Dominican American community.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award for educational excellence.

The annual Golden Apple Award is awarded by Governor John Engler for improved scores in the 4th and 5th grades on the Michigan Education Assessment Program, which test the sections of math, science, reading, and writing. Schools must attain a 60-point increase over three year period to receive the honor.

Last year 54 percent of the students successfully passed the reading portion of the MEAP test compared to 77.3 this year. Also, 74 percent of the students passed the math portion last year compared to 90.7 this year.

The advances by Southeast Elementary School were a result of aggressively employing strategies to help students who placed in the bottom 20–30 percent for the MEAP. Southeast employed dozens of teachers, tutors, and volunteers in a 6–8 week program last winter. The program students focused on reading, writing, math, and science on a daily basis. Further, the school utilized a full-time literacy leader to concentrate on English skills and an educator to concentrate in math. Both programs centered on working with small groups or individuals to help the students improve in the areas in which they were lacking in.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award. I salute their commitment to teaching our nations future leaders and commend each educators commitment to teaching these important skills.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HOUSE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The House of Representatives, for the last fourteen years, has been privileged to have a high-performing team in its Office of Employee Assistance. Those of us who have worked with these individuals have often experienced their high level of service and passion for their work. Now, the entire nation will know too, as the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The award states, "Evaluation and quality improvement has always been a key component of the U.S. House of Representatives program. Whether through client satisfaction surveys, peer reviews or more innovative techniques such as customer interviews and the system-wide evaluation, all modes of evaluation came to the same finding: The Office of Employee Assistance demonstrates exemplary continuous improvement efforts that enhanced the quality of EAP services."

The House team of Bern Beidel, Liz McBride, Debbie Frank, Kristin Welsh-Simpson, and Patty Prince should feel quite proud of its accomplishments and for this recognition that is well deserved.

It's also appropriate to pay tribute to a number of former House Members and employees who laid the groundwork for this program. First, former Clerk of the House, Donald K. Anderson, whose initiative and vision were instrumental in the House instituting an employee assistance service. Second, thanks goes out to the initial Members of Congress who were critical to winning the endorsement of the elected Members—former Speaker Tom Foley, former Minority Leader Bob Michel, former Members Bill Emerson, Rod Chandler, Ben Jones, Mary Rose Oakar, and current Senator Pat Roberts.

The combined work of these professionals has yielded an exemplary level of support for House employees through a program that is now recognized as among the best in its field. Congratulations to the Office of Employee Assistance team, and keep up the outstanding work!

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the H.R. 1 Conference Report, which is the result of months of relentless effort on the part of Members and particularly staff in both chambers in both parties. It is also a great achievement for President Bush, who made education the top priority of his domestic agenda from his first day in office. This conference report largely reflects his priorities and his active support and involvement in this process have been crucial in bringing us to this point.

In the context of a bipartisan, bicameral compromise final product, there are many features of this bill that represent significant departures from the old, failed Federal education policy. In this bill, we have given states and school districts an unprecedented level of

flexibility to use Federal funds as they see fit. We have included, as one of the many new options for children trapped in failing schools, an opportunity to use Title I money to purchase supplemental services such as tutoring, which is a reform that many in this House have advocated for years. We have also consolidated many of the current duplicative education programs to better focus money to the students who need help the most.

Additionally, this conference report makes a strong statement that, where Darwinian evolutionary theory or other controversial scientific topics are taught, students should be exposed to multiple viewpoints. Too often, students are taught only one theory where evolution is concerned, and this language gives support to those at the local and state level who uphold the value of intellectual freedom in the teaching of science. This statement is especially important to make now because H.R. 1 requires all students eventually to be tested in science on a regular basis as a condition of aid.

I am also pleased that the conference report reauthorizes and updates the Troops-to-Teachers program, which assists qualified former members of the military in finding employment in the teaching profession. Since this program's beginning in 1993, Troops-to-Teachers has a proven track record of supplying high-quality teachers, even though it has thus far received little funding. I am hopeful that, when the appropriators finish their work in the coming days, this program will receive the full \$30 million dollars authorized in H.R. 1.

To be sure, I have some misgivings about the new accountability provisions in this conference report. Many states, such as Wisconsin, have spent years developing successful accountability systems that do not necessarily involve testing all students on an annual basis. For the Federal Government to now demand that annual testing in reading and math take place every year in grades 3–8 amounts to a new mandate placed on states over and above what we already ask of them in other areas. On the other hand, given that the national government has poured upwards of \$130 billion dollars into elementary and secondary education over the last 36 years with no discernible improvement in educational outcomes for our most disadvantaged students, I fully understand the urgent need to find some way to make sure that new federal resources are tied to results.

In any case, I am pleased that the conference report makes a credible attempt to address my concerns about saddling states with this new responsibility. For example, the conferees increased the amount of money authorized to help states develop and administer the new tests. Both the House bill and Senate amendment provided \$400 million, however the conference report increases this to \$490 million. If this account is fully funded by the appropriators, states will be able to put in place high-quality accountability systems that provide the data that parents need about their child's school. Additionally, we included a Senate provision that makes state administration of the new testing contingent on adequate funds being provided.

This bill is a significant improvement over current law that, when fully implemented, might actually achieve its intended effect of making sure that henceforth no child is left behind, and on that basis I am pleased to sup-

port it and urge my colleagues to do the same.

## WOMEN SPEAK FOR PEACE RESOLUTION

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the September 11th attack on the people and institutions of America has eliminated any illusion that we are safe from the violence and discord which seem to plague the rest of the world.

Currently, the United Nations has peace keeping missions in every corner of the world including the Golan Heights; Lebanon; Iraq/Kuwait; Angola; the Western Sahara; Kosovo; Cyprus; Georgia; Tajikistan; Sierra Leone; East Timor; Congo and Ethiopia/Eritrea and has established war crimes tribunals in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Our unfortunate global picture of war, ethnic conflict, civil war and terrorism serves as a strong indication of the need to establish and maintain a dialogue leading to a blueprint to establish lasting peace in war-torn and strife ridden areas of the world. Several studies have shown that while women are not usually combatants in these hostilities, women and children tend to disproportionately form the ranks of the displaced and victimized.

Today, I will introduce a resolution encouraging worldwide efforts seeking the greater involvement of women to challenge the belief that violence is an acceptable tool in resolving conflicts. While every member of a community should take affirmative steps to ameliorate violence, the role of women in these efforts are often undervalued. My resolution will encourage women of every race, class and economic circumstance to work together to form coalitions and strengthen communities to work toward international peace-building efforts and will encourage governmental leaders to seek the participation of women at all levels of peacebuilding and peace-keeping efforts.

My resolution encourages the use of the week following Mother's Day to hold forums, conferences, and other activities dedicated to examining the need for peace and the role of women in establishing and maintaining peace-building efforts. I am asking each Member of this House to join me in my efforts to raise the volume of women's voices and encourage non-violent solutions to domestic, national and international disputes, by co-sponsoring this legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO REIKO KAWAKAMI

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reiko Kawakami, my dear friend and a most loyal and dependable staff member for the last twenty-three years. As her friends and family gather to celebrate Reiko's wonderful career, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

The youngest child of George and Ann Kashiwada, Reiko was born in Sacramento on July 8th, 1941. As a youngster in midtown Sacramento, where her parents owned a neighborhood market, Reiko demonstrated her trademark responsibility at a very early age. Reiko and her sister Ellen assumed the task of making sure that things were in order at home. Reiko would often prepare meals and perform various household chores when her parents were busy tending to the family business.

When World War II broke out, Reiko and her family were sent away to the Tule Lake Internment Camp. During the internment, Reiko first demonstrated her gregarious nature and agreeable personality by socializing and playing with the other children in the camp. In the years since the internment, Reiko has remained open to share her experience with others. Reiko has been a clear and thoughtful voice in educating the people of Sacramento about the Japanese American internment experience.

After the internment and a two-year stay in Denver, Colorado, Reiko and her family returned to Sacramento in 1948. It was during my early years at William Land Park Elementary School that I began my lifelong friendship with Reiko. While at McClatchy High School, Reiko caught the eye of Hachi Kawakami. Although a school boundary change forced Reiko to finish her senior year at Sacramento High School, Reiko and Hachi's romance continued and they were soon married after Reiko's graduation from high school in 1958.

For the next two decades, Reiko devoted her energy to raising her five wonderful children; Deann, Cynthia, Mark, Susan, and John. While most people would rest on their laurels and look for less demanding pursuits after raising five children, Reiko decided that she was ready to embrace another challenge by starting a career. After serving as a tireless volunteer on my first congressional campaign, Reiko took on the position as my first district Staff Assistant.

Many things have changed about our world since Reiko first assumed the position of Staff Assistant in my district office in January of 1979. We have seen five different occupants of the White House, the fall of the former Soviet Union, and the rise of the information superhighway. But, one thing has always remained constant in my office over the past twenty-three years; Reiko has been a stalwart part of ensuring that business in my office is handled professionally and in the proper manner. Reiko has truly been the epitome of a leader through example to her peers from Sacramento to Washington, DC over the years. For that, I will always be grateful for her twenty-three years of unparalleled service and life long friendship.

Although Reiko's professional career may be coming to an end, she certainly has much to look forward to in her retirement years. In addition to her five children and their spouses, Reiko can look forward to taking an active role in the lives of her lovely grandchildren; Nicole, Rachelle, Jordan, Dylan, Brett, and Taylor. Reiko and Hachi can also look forward to pursuing their dream to travel to fun and exciting places in their leisure time.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Reiko Kawakami's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor her illustrious twenty-three year career I am honored to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends. Her contributions to my office and

the citizens of Sacramento are unparalleled and her friendship is invaluable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the lifetime of this extraordinary person.

TRIBUTE TO CAMERON  
BALLANTYNE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Washington, DC staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District. Cameron Ballantyne will conclude his internship this week to pursue a degree at my alma mater, the University of Oregon. I wish him well in this endeavor and know that he will excel in his pursuit of a career in the field of journalism.

Cameron comes from a fine Oregon family. I know and admire his parents, Kent and Mary Ballantyne of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and count myself fortunate to call them my friends. I have not been surprised to find that in Cameron's case, the apple does not fall far from the tree.

Following his graduation from high school, Cameron's academic pursuits led him to the Rexburg, Idaho, campus of Brigham Young University. After an exemplary academic performance there, Cameron embarked on a two-year mission in the service of his church in Moscow, Russia, where he became fluent in the Russian language. His strong sense of duty and idealism was further demonstrated when he returned to Oregon to work for the American Red Cross Blood Service. Cameron continued his record of civic service in September by moving to the nation's capital to serve as an intern in my congressional office.

During his stay in Washington, DC, Cameron experienced much more than the typical intern. He joined my staff only one week before the tragic events of September 11th and from his vantage point in Washington witnessed the best and worst of humanity. Cameron was undeterred by the attacks and continued to perform every task he was given with diligence and attention to detail. His efforts were instrumental in responding to the immediate challenges facing my staff, providing much needed help during our temporary displacement from the Longworth Building. Cameron's faithful service gave me full confidence to trust him with important work in a number of subject areas, including press relations.

Cameron's departure will not go unnoticed in my office, especially among my staff, who relied upon his assistance on a daily basis. I know I speak for them all in testifying to the competence and professionalism Cameron exhibited in carrying out his duties, attributes that will serve him well in any career he chooses. I am confident that Cameron will always approach life with the same enthusiasm he brought with him to work every day. I am sorry to see him leave, but wish him the best life has to offer. Cameron, good luck, Go Ducks, and thank you for a job well done.

GEORGE BATH HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend George Bath, a native of my district, who is on his way back to his hometown of Edwardsville after a long career here on Capitol Hill. A farewell party will be held for George on December 18th.

After graduating from Wyoming Valley West High School and Wilkes College, George moved to the Washington, D.C., area to begin his career in the procurement field. While working here, he earned a Masters in Business Administration from Frostburg State University in Maryland. His strong negotiation skills, coupled with an unyielding commitment to quality management and teamwork, have earned him the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the Hill.

George arrived on Capitol Hill in June of 1989, working as a Purchasing Agent for the Senate Sergeant At Arms Office in the start-up procurement office. During his tenure, he helped to mold an office that saved millions of dollars for the taxpayer while also receiving the highest quality goods and services.

In August 1996, George transferred to the House side, where he became a Procurement Specialist in the Office of Procurement under the Chief Administrative Officer. George possessed exceptional knowledge of procurement practices and principles and worked superbly well with Member, Leadership and Committee offices and all other House Officers. No job was too small or too great for George. Just as he had done on the Senate side, he focused on saving taxpayer money, while achieving the highest quality product for the offices he served. George's uncanny knack for resolving disputes for the offices he served consistently resulted in win-win outcomes.

In 1998, George became a Senior Procurement Specialist because of his ability to handle high-stress and high-visibility projects on behalf of a very demanding customer base. His accomplishments and talents in this position include diligence and attention to the House's unique needs for improved vendor performance, using the Internet to post procurements, and opening the realm of competition to a wider range of vendors. He worked in conjunction with the Committee on House Administration in providing House-wide briefings to all House offices, and it would be hard to find an office that has not heard the name George Bath. After all, he developed a training manual and class and then taught House personnel on how to effectively manage contracts.

In June 2000, George received recognition for his exemplary contributions to the organizations of both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Architect of the Capitol by earning the Distinguished Service Award. George was honored for his management of the procurement process supporting a first-of-its-kind project demonstrating the ability of these offices to work together to produce a successful delivery. As part of this process, George oversaw the installation of a state-of-the-art audio-visual system for the International Relations Committee hearing room. Perhaps his greatest story involved the delivery of a 10-

feet-square-by-40-feet-long crate for the hearing room through the front door of the Rayburn Building as he was suddenly surrounded by police.

In November 2000, George ultimately became the head of the Office of Procurement because of his excellent overall performance. He became a known commodity unto himself throughout the House, recognized for his ability, responsiveness and candid, reliable advice. Bill Dellar, Associate Administrator of Procurement, has said, "George Bath has indeed served the House with pride, energy, and creativity. His shoes will be hard to fill!" Mr. Speaker, I heartily agree.

But, Mr. Speaker, George's new life back in Pennsylvania has been on hold since October of this year. You see, he was supposed to start his new job there in October, but he was called into action after the September 11th terrorist strikes and October 17th anthrax attacks and has extended his time here to put the House in a better and more secure position. His devotion and dedication to the emergency contract challenges that followed have proven exemplary. The challenges he encountered were frequent and varied, but George's engaging personality and recognized professionalism met these needs effectively.

Now George's wife, Diane, and two sons, Stephen and John Paul, are patiently awaiting his return to Pennsylvania, and we, here at the House, need to let him go. His professionalism and performance bring great credit upon himself, to the House of Representatives, and, I am sure, to his new employer, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre.

I will close by repeating the words of the Chief Administrative Officer, Jay Eagen, about George: "If I have a complaint about George Bath, it's that he tried to do too much, for too many people. But of course, that's not really a complaint, it's a compliment." Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call George Bath's public service to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I send my best wishes to him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH  
PACKINGHAM ON HIS UNFLINCH-  
ING COMMITMENT TO MIAMI'S  
INNERCITY RESIDENTS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade County's unsung heroes, Mr. Ralph Packingham. Recently, people from all walks of life came together to thank and pay homage to this incessant gadfly for the many years he has devoted to the less fortunate of our innercity neighborhoods.

As a Korean War veteran, he served honorably in heeding our nation's call to duty toward safeguarding our freedom and security. After his stint with our Armed Forces, he attended professional schools of beauty culture and hair styling in New York, expanding his knowledge and expertise on the subject with the Helene Curtis Laboratories. Though a North Carolinian by birth, he came down to Miami to live and make his mark on our community's well-being.

Dubbed simply as the irrepressible Mr. Ralph, he involved himself in virtually creating the esthetic appearance of those who came to his beauty salon to design a better look of themselves and thus achieve a more confident self-esteem.

Out of his hard work and diligence, coupled with his business acumen and personal warmth, his fame as Miami's hairstylist par excellence emerged. Under the aegis of his salon, Hairstyles by Mr. Ralph, he became the legendary cosmetologist whose advice on the challenges of beauty culture and intricacies of hairstyling was sought far and wide.

His tremendous entrepreneurship ultimately propelled him to his engagement with the well-being of Miami's innercity residents. In 1983 he was appointed President of the Allapattah Merchants Association where he superbly managed the development and construction of a private/public business venture toward the retailing of beauty products and the consolidation of a series of pharmaceutical operations. While he exercised optimum vigilance over the business aspects of the Association, he became involved with the overall amelioration of the residents in the innercity.

Sensitized by the awesome hurdles which poor families have to contend with in getting affordable housing and access much-needed capital, Mr. Ralph Packingham became the Executive Director of the Word of Life Community Development Corporation under the auspices of the Word of Life Missionary Baptist Church. At the most recent gathering, in Liberty City tendered to acknowledge his countless contributions to our community, the Rev. Richard P. Dunn II, his pastor, described him as "... a man among men (who) has impacted the lives of thousands of people."

His commitment to affordable housing paved the way for his becoming the driving force of detached, affordable single family homes in Liberty City. The first two of these affordable homes were dedicated last Monday, December 10, 2001. More poor families from Miami's innercity will soon move in and live in their respective dream homes via the low-cost affordable housing initiative born out of the vision and fortitude of this outstanding community leader.

Ever since I have known this quintessential trailblazer who leads by the fortitude of his exemplary sacrifices, Mr. Ralph has always been at the forefront of ensuring equality of opportunity in our community. Countless others have been touched by his unflinching advocacy for those who could least fend for themselves. Though currently ailing and confined to a wheel chair, this 72-year old dynamic personality goes about his leadership role over the faith-based Word of Life CDC in reaching out to poor families, engendering in them genuine hope and optimism.

Buoyed by his sterling Faith in a providential God, he has been and continues to be our community's superlative steward and consummate activist. He is a decent and caring man who thoroughly understands the accouterments of power and leadership by exercising them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his conscience. The uniqueness of his *modus operandi* genuinely personifies his credo that "... you gotta do a lot of praying and a little politicking" to ameliorate the lives of others.

Mr. Ralph Packingham epitomizes a refreshing advocate whose unflinching compassion

and resilient spirit appeal to our noblest character. Indeed, I feel so privileged but deeply humbled to represent him in the hallowed halls of Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING STEPHEN JOHNSON AND DENNIS PARKER ON THEIR ESSAYS ABOUT "WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT"

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, each year Crestwood Elementary School in Swanton, Ohio spends Veterans' Day honoring local veterans. It is an insightful and moving day-long series of events in which both the children and adults fully participate. The 2001 observance featured two essays describing "What Makes America Great" which I would like to enter into the RECORD. The first is by 6th grader Stephen Johnson and the second by 6th grader Dennis Parker.

Three things that make America great are: freedom, the land and its climate, and the people.

First of all freedom makes America great because we can choose our government. For example we can elect candidates for president, vice president, mayor, trustee, secretary, and various other offices within our country's governmental system. We have the freedom to go where we want, and how we're going to get there. We also have freedom to buy, and drive what we want. For example, we can buy airplane tickets, cars, houses, and many other things. We are even allowed to choose what we want to do with our lives. For example we could be a doctor, nurse, dentist, president, vice president, and many different jobs within our country.

Secondly America's land and its climate make America an abundant and bountiful country to live in. The land provides us with minerals, food, water, shelter, wildlife, and the clothes such as cotton. The climate provides this country with sunshine, darkness, warmth, coldness, and the four seasons. The climate has caused America to form oceans, mountains, valleys, plateaus, and hills. The natural resources give us wood for pencils, lumber, paper, and fire, oil for cars and other automobiles, water for drinking, and land for farming.

Thirdly the people make America great because history and events are based on people. The people are faithful, and loyal to their country. There are many different kinds of people living in America. The history, and events are based on people because there was the Boston Tea Party, World War I, World War II, and there was the tragedy that happened just recently. The people are faithful, and loyal to their country by recycling, burning waste, not polluting the air, and many other things to help our environment. There are many different kinds of people living in America because in America you are free to pick your job, your house, and many other things that make America a great place to live in.

Here is the second essay:

If you want to know what makes America great, then take a look around you. I think people took America for granted until the terrorists' acts on September 11, 2001. In a heartbeat, innocent lives were destroyed.

Instead of television heroes like Batman and Superman, they became firefighters, po-

licemen, and just ordinary people like moms and dads, every day Americans just like you and me.

Our country's freedom was taken for granted by Americans that was won by our veterans and forefathers. We fought in wars to end injustices, communism, and nationalism. Now, we are trying to stop terrorists, and our country is united even more.

People show their love and patriotism for our country by flying flags, giving blood, money and food to people in need. They don't care about how much money we have or our skin color. They just want to help out. That is why America is the best country in the world.

If you want to know what freedom is, then look around you. We have freedom of speech, religion, and education. We can go to school, speak, and pray without being punished. We aren't told what job to have, where to live, and what to do. We have many laws, but they are not to punish us, they are to protect us.

America is great because we can vote for whomever we want in a secret ballot. We are allowed to choose our president, governor, or mayor without being punished.

So basically, America is cared for and so are its people. They want to help America and make it even more united. Our veterans played a very important part in American history because they helped us gain freedom.

So remember every time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, or sing the national anthem, be proud, and think of our real heroes. We are united because we are free and we are free because we are United. God Bless America!

#### HONORING THE DEARBORN/DEARBORN HEIGHTS CHAPTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters on their 50th Anniversary.

Recognized by the National League of Women Voters on December 19th, 1951, the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter has fulfilled and continues to fulfill its primary goal of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government, working to increase understanding of major public issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

The Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter has provided numerous services to the community since their inception in 1951. In 1952, they provided election-day childcare in 63 precincts, allowing parents to vote. They helped establish the Northwestern Child Guidance Clinic in 1963. Throughout the years, they have worked with ABC News on election-day exit polling. These fine women have helped pass library proposals and establish a diversity committee which works to engage local students in community discussions. Mr. Speaker, these women have served their community well.

Though they are a non-partisan group, the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women's Voters is extremely political, focusing their efforts on child health and

welfare, juvenile justice, and campaign finance reform. A League representative sits on the Rouge River Advisory Council, as well as the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Educational Advisory Council. As spelled out in their original charter, the League's actions are always a reflection of their member's priorities.

I would like to recognize the current officers of the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters: Elizabeth Linick, Janice Berry, Mary Jo Durivage, Mary Anne Wilkinson, Jeni Dunn and Mary Bugeia. I thank all the fine members of this Chapter of the League for all their hard work over the past 50 years, and would ask that they keep it up. On the occasion of their 50th anniversary, I would ask all my colleagues to salute the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DEFERRED ANNUITANT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, later today I will introduce legislation, the Deferred Annuity Fairness Act of 2001, to correct a glaring inequity in Federal retirement law. At a time when we are considering legislation to protect the hard-earned retirement benefits of working men and women—and give them more control and responsibility over their income in retirement, at least one class of federal government retirees find themselves at an unfair disadvantage and their retirement benefits eroded through no action of their own.

I speak of deferred annuitants of the federal government—employees who work for the Federal Government for at least five years, vest in the retirement program, and who separate from service before becoming eligible for immediate retirement. When these individuals claim their retirement annuity in later years, the pension benefit they have financed is eroded by inflation and they are put at a financial disadvantage which they cannot overcome.

Under current law and practice, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund invests employee contributions but gives no added value to a retiree for the time his or her money was invested before the deferred annuity starts to be paid out. As a consequence, if two employees gave identical service, with the first retiring in 1970 and the second in 2000 with annuities for each starting in 2000, the second retiree receives nearly five times the annuity of the first. In addition, the spouse of a CSRS retiree is not protected during the deferral period. (This protection is already afforded to FERS spouses and spouses of Members of Congress participating in CSRS.)

This legislation will make two primary changes in current law to correct this inequity. First, it will compensate deferred annuitants for the added value generated over the deferred period from investing what was deposited into the trust fund on behalf of the employee up to the time of separation from service is compensated. Second, it will eliminate the disparity in spousal protection for deferred annuitants covered under CSRS and FERS.

Mr. Speaker, fairness and equity should be the watchword when it comes to the treatment of our federal workforce—the hundreds of thousands of men and women who dedicate their lives to service to this nation and our people. With the changes proposed in the legislation I introduce today, federal employees who take a hiatus from their federal service before retiring will be protected from inflation and the erosion of their pension benefit available upon retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of these changes.

This measure is endorsed by the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

RETIREMENT OF TOM MILLER,  
PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH  
SCHOOL IN ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer heartfelt congratulations to Tom Miller. Throughout his career, Tom Miller has constantly demonstrated a commitment to the educational and athletic development of the future leaders of our society. His professional life has consisted of numerous positions of leadership at various schools in Southwest Michigan, including his current post as principal of St. Joseph High School, which he has served for over 23 years. Tom's dedication to the enhancement of the educational experience of young people is a truly noble quality, and one that will be sorely missed.

Additionally, Tom's involvement in the athletic arena of the school system has earned him a place in the Battle Creek St. Philip High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Tom spent numerous years involved in student athletics, his basketball teams enjoying a host of victories during his tenure. I would like to wish the best of luck to Tom in his retirement, which will allow him to spend the coming years with his family, including his wife Mary Lou and all of his loved ones.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF  
2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I want to praise President Bush for putting forth an education plan that offered children in failing schools a chance to get a better education. It is too bad that Democrats and supporters of the failing status quo were allowed to gut the legislation, H.R. 1, at the Committee level to remove any chance for failing schools to successfully improve their performance or to let parents have the option to move their children to better schools.

I believe that control of education should be retained at the local level. Last year, Illinois high school students led the nation in Advanced Placement scores. With a few excep-

tions we have good schools in the 8th District, and I don't want to force parents, school boards, and teachers into a one-size fits all approach that might work in New York City or Atlanta but not in Barrington or Wauconda.

One of the reasons I supported broad-based tax relief, including eliminating the marriage tax penalty and doubling the child tax credit, is because it lets 70,000 married couples and families with 125,000 children in the 8th District of Illinois keep \$162 million per year in their pockets. That is \$162 million per year that families could spend in our district on education if they chose to do so.

Former President Ronald Reagan, in a March 12, 1983 radio address to the nation on education, said, "Better education doesn't mean a bigger Department of Education. In fact, that Department should be abolished. Instead, we must do a better job teaching the basics, insisting on discipline and results, encouraging competition and, above all, remembering that education does not begin with Washington officials or even State and local officials. It begins in the home, where it is the right and responsibility of every American."

When we send a dollar to the federal government from Illinois, we only get 75 cents back. In my district, we send more than \$2 to Washington and only get \$1 back. With a return like this, it is easy to see why I support letting taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned money and having parents decide locally how their money should be spent on education.

Federal education funding is at an all-time high, and H.R. 1 increases it by a huge amount. Yet, student achievement continues to lag. Most Republicans in Congress want to give local schools more freedom to use new models to solve old problems while maintaining high accountability standards. I am saddened that H.R. 1 does not accomplish this worthy goal.

One concept that has strong support from parents is President Bush's proposal to improve public education by testing children in reading and math in grades three through eight once each year. Under President Bush's proposal, schools would be held accountable for either improving scores or losing their federal money, which accounts for seven cents of every education dollar.

I fully support this provision and am gratified it has been included in the conference report before us today. In fact, during debate on H.R. 1 in May of this year, I voted against the amendment co-sponsored by Congressmen PETER HOEKSTRA and BARNEY FRANK to remove President Bush's test requirement from the bill. The tough new testing regimen designed to identify failing public schools—an idea at the heart of President Bush's education plan—survived when the amendment failed. But the rest of the President's plan to give local schools more control to make the changes necessary to improve and to give parents the option to move their children to a better private school were stripped out of the bill.

For the reasons I have outlined, I have decided to vote against H.R. 1. Again, I want to praise President Bush for his leadership in proposing creative solutions to improving the education of our children. I encourage him to continue to move the federal government out of the way and to give schools more flexibility and parents more choices for their children.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS AND  
STAFF OF BECKEMEYER GRADE  
SCHOOL, HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students and staff of Beckemeyer Grade School in Hillsboro, Illinois, and the heartwarming project they undertook to bring comfort to the victims of the recent tragedies.

The attacks of September 11th were a horrible shock to everyone in the United States, but to none were they more devastating than to the victims and their families. American hearts went out to those who would now have to struggle on without the light and laughter of their loved ones who had died. The outpouring of support for these families was enormous, like a bright light of kindness that shone out through the darkness of the disaster. Money, well-wishes and prayers poured in from all across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, the students and staff of Beckemeyer Grade School were part of that outpouring. They purchased several thousand small, glass figurines, called Comfort Angels. These beautiful angels were meant to bring hope and well-wishes to all who viewed them. The people of Hillsboro, lead by their coordinator Pamela Hopper, then set an ambitious goal: to distribute an angel to the families of every victim of the tragedy.

They have come astonishingly close to that goal—thousands of Comfort Angels have been distributed to families all over the world. They have found their way to embassies, fire stations, Congressional offices, and homes in New York and Washington. Two thousand of them were distributed by the Salvation Army alone, at the Memorial for the Pentagon on October 11th. And the results have been equally amazing. Letters have poured into Hillsboro, filled with thanks and touching stories.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the terrorists of September wished to divide and demoralize our country. Instead, in many ways they have energized us and brought us closer together. The amazing success of the people of Beckemeyer Grade School is a wonderful example of this—their faith and hard work has allowed them to make a difference in many lives, and they deserve my thanks and the thanks of these chambers.

COMMENDING THE CANADIAN  
PACIFIC RAILWAY HOLIDAY TRAIN

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Canadian Pacific Railway Holiday Train embarked on its third annual "journey of goodwill" to collect food throughout Canada and the United States for those most in need. The two previous drives have collected 18 tons of food, and have raised more than \$500,000 to combat hunger. On December 4th, one of the three trains traveling throughout the United

States and Canada embarked on its journey from the Fresh Pond Junction Rail Yard in Queens, New York. There, the Canadian Pacific Railway hosted a special ceremony honoring and remembering the heroes of September 11th.

I would like to sincerely thank the Canadian Pacific Railway for having one of their beautifully decorated trains originate in New York City. This was a tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in the September 11th tragedy, as well as a tribute to their families. The victims' families were invited to the ceremony, and Christmas trees were given to all of the families of the firefighters and police officers who were killed. In addition, Canadian Pacific Railway donated \$100,000 to the NYSE Fund for Fallen Heroes. This kindness and generosity is just the most recent example of Canadian Pacific Railway's long standing commitment to the people of New York.

I commend the Canadian Pacific Railway on their benevolent gestures towards the city of New York, and thank them for not only supporting the United States and our families in this time of tragedy, but also for continuing their plight to feed the hungry.

IN HONOR OF MARY LOU WEISS  
UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM  
HERMOSA BEACH SCHOOL BOARD

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, Mary Lou Weiss, who retires this month from the Hermosa Beach Unified School District Board of Trustees, on which she has served as Trustee for 16 years, including 6 tours as President.

In her capacity as a School Board Trustee, Mary Lou has been a strong advocate for Hermosa Beach children, helping to ensure they receive the best educational opportunities. Because of her knowledge and expertise, I asked her to serve on my Education Advisory Committee.

A long time resident of Hermosa Beach, Mary Lou has contributed to the community in so many other ways as well. She has served as an advisory member for the Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce, coached AYSO boys soccer, and served on the advisory board for the Hermosa Beach Education Foundation. For her active contributions, she was named 1989 Hermosa Beach Woman of the Year.

Of special interest, she has managed several local farmers' markets, making sure the vendors get the space they need and that the markets run smoothly. I have taken advantage of these markets many times—during my campaigns, the farmers' markets have always been a great way to reach a lot of people, and as a member of Congress, my staff and I often bring our office resources to the community by setting up our own booth. Mary Lou not only accommodates these important visits for me, but she is always thoughtful enough to provide flowers and to remember that I like Diet Coke.

Mary Lou also is a tremendous resource to my staff, always available to answer questions about policy, politics, or which vendor has the

best produce. My staff members over the years consider Mary Lou as an additional "mother."

This year, Mary Lou chose not to run for another term as a School Board Trustee in order to apply her years of experience to a run for Hermosa Beach City Council. Although she was not successful in this endeavor, she once again demonstrated her leadership and commitment to the community through the classy way she ran her campaign.

I will miss Mary Lou on the School Board, but I know we will continue to work together to ensure that we do the best we can for the children of our community. I join the citizens of Hermosa Beach in wishing Mary Lou and her family well in their future endeavors.]

DO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS  
THWART RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the "Helsinki" Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe recently convened a briefing which examined the policies of various governments which require registration of religious groups and the effect of such policies on the freedom of religious belief and practice. There was evidence that such requirements can be, and often are, a threat to religious freedom among countries in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, mandated to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments, I have become alarmed over the past decade by the creation of new laws and regulations in some OSCE countries that serve as a roadblock to the free exercise of religious belief. These actions have not been limited to emerging democracies, but include Western European countries such as Austria.

Many of these laws are crafted with the intent to repress religious communities deemed nefarious and dangerous to public safety. One cannot deny that certain groups have hidden behind the veil of religion in perpetrating monstrous and perfidious acts. The September 11th tragedies have been a grim reminder of that. Yet, while history does hold examples of religion employed as a tool for evil, these are exceptions and not the rule. In our own country, during the Civil Rights Movement, religious communities were the driving force in the effort to overturn the immoral "separate but equal" laws and provide legal protections. If strict religious registration laws had existed in this country, government officials could have clamped down on this just movement, possibly delaying long overdue reform.

While OSCE commitments do not forbid basic registration of religious groups, governments often use the pretext of "state security" to quell groups espousing views contrary to the ruling powers' party line.

Registration laws are often designed on the premise that minority faiths are inimical to governmental goals. Proponents of more strenuous provisions cite crimes committed by individuals in justifying stringent registration requirements against religious groups, ignoring

the fact that criminal laws should be adequate to combat criminal activity. In other situations, some governments have crafted special church-state agreements, or concordats, which exclusively give one religious group powers and rights not available to other communities. By creating tiers or hierarchies, governments run the risk of dispersing privileges and authority in an inequitable fashion, ensuring that other religious groups will never exist on a level playing field, if at all. In a worst case scenario, by officially recognizing "traditional" or "historic" communities, governments can reflect an ambivalence towards minority religious groups. Such ambivalence can, in turn, create an atmosphere in which hostility or violence is perpetrated with impunity. The persistent brutality against Jehovah's Witnesses and evangelical groups in Georgia is an example of State authorities' failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of such violence.

Mr. Speaker, religious registration laws do not operate in a vacuum; other rights, such as freedom of association or freedom of speech, are often enveloped by these provisions. Clamping down on a group's ability to exist not only contravenes numerous, long-standing OSCE commitments, but can effectively remove from society forces that operate for the general welfare. The recent liquidation of the Salvation Army in Moscow is a lucent example. Who will suffer most? The poor and hungry who now benefit from the Salvation Army's ministries of mercy.

Each OSCE participating State has committed to full compliance with the provisions enumerated in the various Helsinki documents. The Bush Administration's commitment to religious freedom has been clearly articulated. In a March 9, 2001 letter, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor, wrote: "President Bush is deeply committed to promoting the right of individuals around the world to practice freely their religious beliefs." She also expressed her concern about religious discrimination. In a separate letter on March 30th of this year, Vice President DICK CHENEY echoed this commitment when he referred to the promotion of religious freedom as "a defining element of the American character." He went on to declare the Bush Administration's commitment "to advancing the protection of individual religious freedom as an integral part of our foreign policy agenda."

Since the war on terrorism was declared, the President has made clear the distinction between acts of terrorism and religious practice. In his address to the country, Mr. Bush stated: "The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. . . . Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them." He further stated, "The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself." Accordingly, I believe this administration will not stray from supporting religious freedom during this challenging time.

Out of concern about recent developments and trends in the OSCE region, the Helsinki Commission conducted this briefing to discuss registration roadblocks affecting religious freedom. I was pleased by the panel of experts and practitioners assembled who were kind enough to travel from Europe to share their thoughts and insights, including Dr. Sophie van Bijsterveld, a professor of law in The Netherlands and current Co-Chair of the OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom

of Religion or Belief, Dr. Gerhard Robbers, a member of the OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts and professor of law in Germany; Mr. Vassilios Tsirbas, interim executive director and senior legal counsel for the European Centre for Law and Justice in Strasbourg; and Col. Kenneth Baillie, commanding officer for the Salvation Army in Eastern Europe.

Dr. van Bijsterveld made the point that "the assessment of registration from the point of view of religious liberty depends entirely on the function that registration fulfills in the legal system, and the consequences that are attached to registration."

She continued: "A requirement of registration of religious groups as a pre-condition for the lawful exercise of religious freedom is worrisome in the light of international human rights standards. [Needing the government's] permission for a person to exercise his religion in community with others is, indeed, problematic in the light of internationally acknowledged religious liberty standards. Religious liberty should not be made dependent on a prior government clearance. This touches the very essence of religious liberty."

Dr. Robbers noted that registration of religious communities is often a requirement but "it need not be a roadblock to religious freedom. In fact, it can free the way to more positive religious freedom if correctly performed." If utilized, "registration and registration procedures must meet certain standards. Registration must be based on equal treatment of all religious communities. . . . [and] the process of registration must follow due process of law." He further noted that "religious activity in and as community, must be possible even without being registered as religious community." He made clear that the minimum number of members required for registration need not be too many and there should be no minimum period of existence before registration is allowed.

The third panelist, Mr. Tsirbas, opined, "Within this proliferation of the field of human rights, the Helsinki Final Act is a more than promising note. The commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, basically summarizes the . . . protection of international and domestic legal documents. Religious liberty stands out as one of those *sine qua non* conditions for an atmosphere of respect for the rights of individuals or whole communities."

Mr. Tsirbas also stated, "If the protection of the individual is considered the cornerstone of our modern legal system, religious freedom should be considered the cornerstone of all other rights. The right itself is one of the most recent to be recognized and protected, yet it embraces and reflects the inevitable outworking through the course of time of the fundamental truths of belief in the worth of a person."

Lastly, Col. Kenneth Baillie, spokesman for the Salvation Army in Eastern Europe, outlined the experience of registering his organization in Moscow. "In Russia, as of February this year, we are registered nationwide as a centralized religious organization, [however] the city of Moscow is another story. We have been registered as a religious group in Moscow since 1992. In response to the 1997 law, like everyone else, we applied for re-registra-

tion, thinking that it would be merely pro forma. Our application documents were submitted, and a staff person in the city Ministry of Justice said everything was in order, we would have our signed and stamped registration in two days.

"Two days later," Col. Baillie continued, "the same staffer called to say, in a sheepish voice, 'There's a problem.' Well, it is now three years later, and there is still a problem. Someone took an ideological decision to deny us, that is absolutely clear to me, and three years of meetings and documents and media statements and legal briefs are all window-dressing. Behind it all is an arbitrary, discriminatory, and secret decision, and to this day I do not know who made the decision, or why."

Based on the difficult experience of trying to register in Moscow and the Salvation Army's subsequent "liquidation" by a Moscow court, Col. Baillie offered some observations. He noted how "the law's ambiguity gives public officials the power to invent arbitrary constructions of the law." Col. Baillie concluded by stating, "We will not give up," but added he is "understandably skeptical about religious registration law, and particularly the will to uphold what the law says in regard to religious freedom."

Mr. Speaker, this Helsinki Commission briefing offered a clear picture of how the law and practice affecting, registration of religious groups have become critical aspects in the defense of the right to freedom of conscience, religion or belief. No doubt registration requirements can serve as a roadblock which is detrimental to religious freedom. The Commission will continue to monitor this trend among the region's governments which are instituting more stringent registration requirements and will encourage full compliance with the Helsinki commitments to ensure the protection of this fundamental right.

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE ARGYRO LALOS SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN IT HONORS

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the Argyro Lalos Scholarship Fund at Arizona State University (ASU), and the outstanding citizen it honors, Ms. Argyro Lalos of Phoenix, Arizona.

Recently, the Lalos family, with the help of 20 contributors, endowed a scholarship fund on behalf of 93-year-old Yia Yia (ya-ya, which is "grandmother" in Greek), as she is affectionately known, to honor her lifelong respect for quality education. Each year, Ms. Lalos will help select a recipient of the award, which is in the amount of \$500, from among the engineering students at ASU that apply. Engineering students are the focus because the Lalos family believes that Yia Yia would have excelled in this field had she been given the opportunity. Applicants are judged on academic standing and essays they write explaining obstacles they have overcome in achieving a higher education.

Her desire to learn was prominent at an early age. Raised in Greece, she was pulled

out of elementary school because of the perceived lack of value in educating young women in that society. Often sneaking to school and borrowing school books, she eventually taught herself how to read, while never receiving a formal education. She continues to be an avid reader of novels and biographies and reads the Greek newspapers daily.

After World War II, Yia Yia came to America with her husband and worked as a seamstress while he worked at a dry cleaning and tailor shop. Achieving an education was stressed in the household and their goal was always to be able to provide their children the opportunity to receive a quality education. Throughout the years, with the money they saved, this goal was accomplished as Yia Yia's children and four grandchildren have all received a higher education.

Having endured World War I, the flu epidemic of 1918, the economic depression of the 1930's, German occupation during World War II, and the Greek Civil War, the only heartache Argyro Lalos holds is over never having received a formal education. However, assisting today's students in overcoming the financial obstacles to higher education is a selfless way to give to others the opportunity she never had and therefore a fitting tribute to the much beloved matriarch of the Lalos family.

#### INTRODUCING THE RETIREMENT ACCOUNT PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

#### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation to address one troubling issue raised in the wake of the Enron Corporation's sudden stunning demise—the lockdown of Enron employee 401(k) accounts. The Retirement Account Protection Act of 2001 (RAPA) will bar employers from unilaterally and arbitrarily freezing sales of company stock by an employee from their 401(k) pension plans or other Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs).

Mr. Speaker, while we accept that lockdowns are often ordered in the routine course of plan management by a business, the simple fact is that they unfairly tie the hands of employees. The sudden collapse of the Enron Corporation illustrates how the impact of a lockdown can damage the retirement security of employees. As part of a routine switch of administrators for its employees' 401(k) program, Enron froze employee retirement accounts, packed with its stock, right as shares plummeted in late October and early November. When all was said and done, Enron Corporation's 401(k) plan lost about \$1 billion in value. Enron employees assert that during the lockdown, they could only watch in horror as the value of their company stock fell from \$30.72 at the close of trading on October 16 to \$11.69 on November 19. The anxiety about their jobs was compounded by their inability to protect their retirement savings from decimation.

Under RAPA, employers would have to petition the Secretary of Labor for permission to order an administrative lockdown or freeze of employee defined contribution plans. The Secretary would apply a three-part test and the

lockdown would be permitted if the Secretary found it to be administratively feasible, in the interests of the plan and its participants and, most importantly, "protective of the rights of participants and beneficiaries of the plan." Presently, freezes or lockdowns of employee transactions in the Employer stock plans are routinely ordered for administrative reasons such as switches in benefit administrators or during transition times associated with corporate mergers. My bill also orders the appropriate regulators to study the advisability of imposing a cap on company stock purchases by employees for their defined contribution plans, in the wake of Enron's demise and the devastation of thousands of retirement accounts. There are serious questions about the prudence of imposing diversification requirements on employee investments.

Under RAPA, employers who are granted an exemption by the Secretary of Labor could then order a lockdown or freeze of account activity, but not before giving employees adequate notice. Under my bill, current employees, former employees and pension plan beneficiaries would receive written notice of the lockdown at least ninety days prior to the effective date. The importance of providing timely, adequate written notice to all effected parties, regardless of whether they still are employed, cannot be overstated. Former Enron employees who were plan participants, but no longer had access to Enron's internal e-mail network, report that the first time they received notice of the lockdown was when they tried to sell their company stock.

Mr. Speaker, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) has done a good job of protecting the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries, particularly with respect to defined benefit plans. But, since enactment of the ERISA in 1974, the nation's landscape has changed substantially. Though the number of employer-sponsored pension plans have steadily increased, proportionately fewer employers offer traditional defined benefit plans and, instead, offer defined contribution plans such as 401(k) or ESOPs. The growth in defined contribution plans has resulted in a shift of responsibility, from the employer to the employee, with respect to how the funds should be invested. Mr. Speaker, my bill seeks to amend ERISA to ensure that employees continue to have the right to oversee their investments without interference by their employer.

Under RAPA, employers would no longer have the unfettered discretion to undertake such actions. While there is nothing that the Congress can do to guarantee against downturns in the value of company stock, we can ensure that employees retain the same right that any investor has to take whatever actions they deem necessary to protect their retirement savings, including selling company stock.

#### RECOGNITION OF MRS. CORA HIDALGO HOLLAND'S DEATH

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Cora Hidalgo Holland, my dear friend Mi-

chael Aldaco's aunt, who was a victim of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Mrs. Hidalgo Holland led an exemplary life that touched many people's lives. She exercised a subtle kind of leadership and made numerous contributions to her community. Throughout her life of service she became a role model to many. She was very active in her community, helping young, severely "at-risk" mothers, Spanish-speaking teenagers, who were largely on their own. Mrs. Hidalgo Holland taught them the basics of parenting and basics of child-rearing and about nutrition, hygiene and intellectual development. She also volunteered at a center that collected and provided free groceries to needy families.

Mrs. Hidalgo Holland played an integral role in her family. She showed her unbounded love to those dearest to her because family was of utmost importance to her. Thus, she contributed greatly to their development and happiness. She will be missed by those who loved her dearly for the many blessings she brought. Although her death brought much pain, it served to bring her family closer and to realize the fragility of life and the importance of voicing our love for those we love.

I am saddened by the loss of such a fine member of our community. I extend my sincerest condolence to Mrs. Hidalgo Holland's family, as we all mourn the loss of a role model and a exceptional person.

#### EXPRESSING THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, with my strong support the House recently approved resolutions expressing gratitude to the General Accounting Office for accommodating the House during the recent closure of the House office buildings, and honoring the Capitol Police for their commitment to security at the Capitol in the wake of the September 11 attacks. I wish to bring to the House's attention yet another legislative-branch agency that has gone the extra mile to support the Congress in this period of crisis: the Government Printing Office.

We would be remiss in overlooking the GPO's many contributions of the last three months. When the presence of anthrax necessitated the closure of House and Senate office buildings in October and November, GPO was ready to lend a hand. GPO provided conference room and office space for personnel from the Office of the Clerk of the House and the Senate's Office of Legislative Counsel to continue their important operations. For the Capitol Police, GPO made available the loading docks in its North Capitol Street warehouse for use in screening deliveries to Capitol Hill. Each day, up to 70 trucks destined for the Capitol complex pass through this operation, and it has been an enormous help to us.

GPO has provided other help since September 11. For example, when the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's regional office was destroyed in the collapse of the World Trade Center complex, GPO established a secure, password-protected area on their web site, so displaced EEOC employees

could log-on from home or other places and resume the Commission's work. Personnel from GPO's Inspector General office even helped with recovery efforts at the Pentagon and in New York.

While GPO has provided support in these extraordinary ways, it has also carried on its routine but essential work in printing and information dissemination under the leadership of Public Printer Michael F. DiMario. GPO's print-

ing operation recently earned accolades as the "Number One In-Plant in the Nation" from In-Plant Graphics magazine, a printing-industry journal, for the fourth consecutive year.

Mr. Speaker, the past three months have been unlike any in recent memory. People are working hard the world over to see that such a period never recurs, and to rid the world of terrorism once and for all. We are reminded that at times we must meet extraordinary chal-

lenges in extraordinary ways in order to fulfill our responsibilities. As a citizen, and as a Representative in Congress, I find it tremendously gratifying to know that we have in the GPO the creativity, the capability, and the willingness to keep the wheels of our democracy turning on behalf of the American people. I thank the dedicated employees of the GPO for doing their part of a job well done.